

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

VOLUME XXIX

(Eight Pages)

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1922.

No. 31

SCHOOL BOARD NOW READY TO ASK FOR BIDS

PLANS APPROVED AT SPECIAL MEETING SUNDAY

Estimated Cost a Bit High, But Hope Two Schools Can Be Built and Furnished for \$200,000.00

The members of the Alliance school board held a special session Sunday afternoon with a representative of the Lincoln firm of architects which is drawing up plans and specifications for the new high school building and the grade school, to be located on the east side. The conference had been scheduled for Saturday night, but the architect failed to make the proper train connections. The board went over the plans, saw that their suggestions for improvement had been incorporated, and approved them tentatively, the understanding being that no further alterations will be made if it is found to be possible to construct the two buildings with the money that is available for the purpose.

The board has some \$200,000 to be used for constructing and equipping both buildings, and if it is humanly possible to do so, will not consider spending another cent. The bond issue authorized for this purpose was \$250,000, but the board, realizing that public sentiment was strongly in favor of strict economy, decided to change the plans sufficiently to get by for the smaller sum. It still has this point of view.

The architect's estimate of construction cost on the two buildings ran \$5,000 beyond the \$200,000 mark, leaving nothing at all for equipping the buildings. He estimated the excavating cost at 26 cents per cubic yard, the figure in a contract recently let for a new public building at Fremont, and with this as a basis for this portion of the work, said that the new high school building should be erected for \$175,000, and the new grade school for \$22,000.

The school board, however, hopes that these figures can be shaved by the contractors, and decided to go ahead and advertise for bids, which will be opened April 20. They hope that the contractors will shave the estimates sufficiently to allow the \$200,000 to cover all expense of construction and equipment. The equipment cost is estimated generally at 10 per cent of the cost of the building. Unless the contractors pare the architect's estimate down to \$175,000, the board will have to look for other sources of funds.

LAST SERVICE IN OLD CHURCH BY METHODISTS

LARGE CONGREGATION PRESENT ON SUNDAY EVENING.

County Judge Tash Gave Interesting Recollections Covering the Last Thirty-five Years.

A large congregation filled the old Methodist church Sunday night for the last Methodist service after thirty years of continual service. According to the response given to the questions put by the pastor, two persons were in town at the time of the organization of the first class, Mrs. Hampton and Mrs. Barkhurst. There were fourteen grownups who had attended the Sunday school when children, and thirty-four who had been baptized in the church. The number who had united with the church under different pastorate was as follows: present pastor, 31; Rev. Wright, none; Dr. Morris, 4; Dr. Barns, 8; Dr. Baker, 2; Rev. Jones, 1; Rev. Vellow, 1; Dr. Ray, 16; Rev. Horn, 3; Rev. McReynolds, 1 and Rev. Gammon, 1.

Judge Ira E. Tash gave a most interesting address on personal recollections of the church during the past thirty-five years, reviewing each pastorate with his usual humor. There had been thirteen pastors. Some have since become leading preachers of the church, for instance, Dr. Charles Wayne Ray, who has written a number of books, and Dr. Jesse Jennings, who became manager of the Kansas City book concern.

Following the judge's address, Mrs. Barkhurst, known as "Grandma Barkhurst," gave some further reminiscences, and told of being present at the organization of the first Methodist class. The meeting was held in the building now on the corner of Third and Cheyenne, which was then a schoolhouse and public hall combined. As she was out walking one Sunday afternoon, she heard singing as she passed the building, and concluding it was a religious meeting, went in. A Methodist preacher was holding religious services, and at the close of the sermon, organized a class of seventeen members.

Many who were present will agree that the closing service was one of the most enjoyable ever held in the building. Next Sunday they will meet in the gymnasium of the new church on the corner of Seventh and Box Butte.

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Alliance and vicinity: Fair tonight and Wednesday; colder tonight.

Declamatory Trials

at the High School Friday, March 17th

The preliminary try-outs for the high school declamatory work will be held at the high school auditorium on Friday, March 17. A number have entered and from the material very good representatives for the high school should be chosen. There are three divisions the humorous, dramatic and oratorical. Alliance last year won two of the three divisions at the district meet and should make a good showing this year. Those who have entered are:

Oratorical—Theodore Benson and Jay Canlin.

Dramatic—Miriam Harris, Mildred Pate, Dorothy Deering, Barton Kline and William Zieg.

Humorous—Eva Beal, Frances Fletcher, Vivian Corbett, Elsie Harris, Margaret Vanderlas, Ruth Hutchinson, Wauneta Robinson, Josephine Wright and Margaret Schill.

REISENWEAVER'S FRIEND WORKING FOR HIS RELEASE

NEWSPAPER WOMAN IS INTERVIEWED AT LINCOLN.

Says Youth Frightened Into Confessing by Picturing Terrors of Electric Chair.

The opening gun has been fired in the fight by Mrs. Laura Kerr of Sheridan, Wyo., to secure the release from the penitentiary of Walter Reisenweaver. Mrs. Kerr was in Alliance last week, but found the authorities dead set against recommending a parole for the youth of seventeen who was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Charles Johnson.

Mrs. Kerr tells her own version of the story, which in some respects fails to correspond with the facts as discovered by investigations here. She makes the claim that Reisenweaver was frightened by the officials, who threw into him such a terror of the electric chair that, although innocent, he pleaded guilty to second degree murder.

The State Journal publishes the following interview with Mrs. Kerr: Mrs. Laura Kerr, pretty, blonde, newspaper woman from Sheridan, Wyo., arrived in Lincoln Sunday to open a fight for a commutation of the life sentence of Walter Reisenweaver, twenty years old.

At the age of sixteen, Reisenweaver was tried and convicted of the murder of Charles Johnson of Alliance. Johnson was in charge of the Burlington commissary and Reisenweaver was in his employ.

Knew Reisenweaver as Child
"My father owned a department store at Sheridan which is Walter's home town," Mrs. Kerr said at the Lincoln hotel last night. "Walter and his brother, Ernest, always stopped at papa's store in the evening on their way home from school and waited for their mother who always went there to meet them.

"I grew to know the boys well and was fond of them. When Walter was fifteen he began working in the Burlington shops and before he drew his first pay check he got some water-melons and other things from the commissary which were charged against his account.

"His father asked him about it and sent him to the Burlington cashier to straighten it out. Rather than tell his father what he did Walter ran away.

"A few months later I learned he had been found guilty of murder. His mother calls on me every day when I am home and I promised her that sometime when business called me to this part of the country I would endeavor to do something for Walter.

"I talked to him at the penitentiary this afternoon. He tells me he is innocent and was frightened into a confession by officials at Alliance who drew a vivid picture of the electric chair and the horrors of the death cell. Upon promise of a lighter sentence, he says, he confessed to the crime.

"I have been at Alliance talking to officials there. The Alliance newspapers published stories to the effect that while Walter was incarcerated at the penitentiary he struck a man over the head with a baseball bat. I talked to officials at the penitentiary today and they tell me that the story is not true.

Mrs. Kerr has a letter of introduction to Governor McKelvie from Governor Carey of Wyoming. However, after talking to prison officials, she decided to call on H. H. Harmon, secretary of the board of pardons and paroles, Monday morning and make arrangements to file application for a commutation of sentence.

CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICES ARE SHOWING UP

SEVERAL HATS TOSSED IN THE RING SATURDAY

To Date Only Republican Aspirants Are Committed to the Race, But Democrats Are Not Idle

At last it begins to look like an election on July 18. In other counties, the candidates have been springing up like weeds, but in Box Butte there has been a bit of delay. Plenty of names mentioned, but few candidates had plunked down their filing fee and definitely committed themselves to the race. On Saturday, however, there was a small rush staged for filing, and when the county clerk's office closed that day, there were seven candidates whose hats had been shied into the ring.

Not a democrat was among the seven, but this doesn't necessarily mean that the November, 1920, landslide took all the scrap out of them. Instead, there seems to be a disposition to hold back and let someone else start it.

The filings to date include: Miss Opal Russell for re-election as county superintendent, a non-partisan office.

Nellie Wilson, for the republican nomination for county treasurer.

Mrs. Cora Lewis, republican nomination for county treasurer.

Frank Irish, republican nomination for county clerk.

Thomas L. Miskimen, county commissioner, Third district, republican.

G. H. Hagaman, commissioner, Second district, republican.

C. L. Hashman, county commissioner, Second district, republican.

Scrap Looms on Commissioner

Apparently the biggest scrap of the coming campaign will center about the office of county commissioner. Two of the three members of the board are to be elected this year, and there is an opportunity to choose two men who will control the board. George Duncan, present commissioner from the Second, or Alliance, district, has not yet returned from a western trip, but he is not expected to file for re-election. However, even if he should decide to file, he will find his place contested.

Already, Tom Miskimen is out to fill Mr. Duncan's shoes, and although he is the first, he isn't the only. J. R. Lawrence, who has not yet completed his filing, is an avowed candidate for the place, and is publishing an announcement to that effect.

Several others are mentioned as possible successors to Mr. Duncan. Prominent among these is J. A. Keegan, who is considered to be about the right kind of timber for the place. His friends have been working on him, but he has not yet persuaded him to file.

C. L. Hashman already has announced opposition for the Third district commissionership in the person of George H. Hagaman, a well known and well liked farmer of Wright precinct. It is probable that there will be other republicans and a democrat or two before the time for making up the ballots arrives.

With a large number of farmers and union men united on a platform which stands for a change in the office of commissioner, it is probable that these offices will be hotly contested. As yet, the farm-labor element has not placed any candidates in the field, having announced that they want good men, not necessarily either farmers or unionists, and if they held to this position, they will unquestionably have a considerable amount of influence in the selection of the candidates. Even if they change tactics, and start to elect their own men, their votes are not to be sniffed at.

Other County Offices

Although several names were mentioned for county clerk, Frank Irish is the only one to definitely announce himself in the race. John Jelinek has been mentioned as a possible contestant, and a woman is suggested as a likely candidate, although she has not yet permitted her name to be used.

The office of county treasurer will be contested for, on the republican side, by Mrs. Cora Lewis and Mrs. Nellie Wilson. Mrs. Wilson is the present deputy and vice chairman of the county central committee, and if party activity has anything to do with it, is considered as having a pretty fair chance to land the nomination. Mrs. Lewis is a former deputy county treasurer and has a large number of friends. So far, no other candidates have been mentioned, although it is expected that this important office will be contested for by the democrats, and possibly other republican aspirants will show up.

Judge Westover Able to Return to His Office

District Judge W. H. Westover, who was taken suddenly ill while holding court in Alliance a few weeks ago, is reported as being on the road to recovery. He was able to walk to his office from his home in Rushville Monday.

FARMERS HAVE A BIG MEETING OUT AT FAIRVIEW

CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF ROAD SITUATION

Sentiment in Favor of County Spending All Road Funds—Many Oil Leases Signed

The Box Butte county farmers' union held an all-day session at the Fairview church, eleven miles northeast of Alliance, on Monday, which was attended by some 150 farmers and their good wives, from various parts of the county. There was a good-sized delegation from Hemingford and Berea, although the attendance was cut down to some extent by the conditions of the road, which, in the midst of the present thaw, are not in the best of shape for automobilizing.

There were too many problems scheduled for discussion to admit of politics, but the men present took up a number of other matters in addition to the formation of a county-wide potato selling organization, which was the principal object of the meeting. A large majority of those present favored the organization of such an association, and the name, "Box Butte Potato Growers' association," was tentatively approved, although it is possible that this may be changed before articles of incorporation are filed. Some of the growers thought it a good idea to incorporate the phrase "Dry Land Potatoes" in the name of the association, to distinguish their product from the spuds grown in the irrigated North Platte valley. Officers for the association were named at a previous meeting, and a meeting has been called for Thursday of this week at Berea to perfect the organization.

Clark C. Denny and Fred Bloomer were present during a good share of the day, and were busily engaged in securing oil leases. It was reported that the leases were being secured in the name of Carl Modisett and Victor I. Jeep. Among the farmers who have granted oil leases are mentioned Fred Herbert, Ed Zoehal, M. P. Nason, Fred Nason, F. H. Nason and D. R. Lawrence.

G. E. Burke of Gurley, Cheyenne county, organizer for the United States Grain Growers, was also present at the meeting and a number of the farmers are reported to have decided to join the association.

Talk Over Road Problems.

Possibly due to the fact that the Chadron road, over which a good many of the delegates drove to attend the meeting, is in need of filling for several bad holes, the talk at the session drifted to roads. One speaker quoted figures showing that the cost of seven miles of state constructed road in the Potash highway was sufficient to build 104 miles of road that was as good for all practical purposes. It was also declared that one stretch of the Antioch road was just four inches higher than the specifications called for, and that the contractor was ordered to take off the excess filling.

There was a long discussion of the matter of road construction, and the sentiment at the meeting was that the state highway department is spending entirely too much money and getting too little road for it, and that the county, with good commissioners, could get better results for less cost.

The state highway department was panned on a couple other counts, one of them being that the state officials are entirely too dictatorial and insist on holding to their own ideas of where roads should be built, giving the county little or no voice in saying where money which comes from them indirectly, shall be spent.

Ranchers Make Good Money By Trapping Muskrats

Rocky Mountain News: W. W. Gilbaugh, banker of Bingham, in the sandhill district east of Alliance, estimates that the gross income of trappers and ranchmen in the western Nebraska sandhill district during the season which closed February 15, amounted to one million dollars. Practically all of this came from muskrat hides.

According to Mr. Gilbaugh, many ranchmen who were facing financial extinction, due to the drop in the value of livestock, turned to muskrat trapping as a means of bringing in ready cash and tiding them through the winter. Other ranchmen leased their lakes to professional trappers who pay a share of the proceeds as rental. One trapper is reported to have made a gross income of over \$7,000 during the season.

The Nebraska solons who fixed the time limit for trapping from Nov. 15 until Feb. 15 were evidently not well acquainted with the fur business. Expert trappers and fur buyers say that the season should be from Jan. 1 to April 1, when the furs are in the best condition. It is quite probable that the next session of the legislature will be asked to remedy this mistake in the setting of the proper time limit.

Prime muskrat furs brought from \$1 to \$1.70 during the past season.

Boy Scouts Will Put On Benefit Performance Soon

The rehearsals for the boy scout performance will begin as soon as possible. This entertainment will be under the direction of A. H. Harper, who has already put on some highly successful shows here. The date for the show has been set for the 7th of April. This will be a minstrel show and should be well worth seeing, as there is a good deal of talent at hand. The campfire girls will assist to make the show a success and with these two organizations the show should be a humdinger.

Lexington Man Now Owner of the Alliance Bakery

E. Shadwinkel of Lexington, Neb., on Saturday of last week purchased the Alliance Bakery plant of Pemberton & Gillespie. Mr. Shadwinkel has had a number of years' experience in this line of endeavor, having been a wholesale and retail baker for fifteen years. He came to Nebraska from Langdon, N. D. Messrs. Pemberton and Gillespie and their families will remain in the city for another week. The new owner is now in charge.

SOLDIER IS NOW IN TROUBLE OVER PASSING CHECKS

AUTHORITIES TO MOVE AGAINST MAN AT FORT ROBINSON

Warrant to Be Issued for J. N. McCain Despite Sob Story and Promise of Restitution

A young soldier from Fort Robinson, who signs checks by the name of J. N. McCain, is about due to find himself in the center of a mess of trouble, due to an annoying habit of writing checks when he has no funds in the bank. Alliance people have practically abandoned this practice of earning a living, due to Judge Tash's habit of seeking the offender the full limit of the law, but every now and then a stranger tries it out. Some of them get away with it, but others are not so fortunate.

Mr. McCain, according to information given to County Attorney Lee Baysie, was once caught, but deliberately tried the stunt a second time, with what it is hoped will be disastrous results. According to the story told Mr. Baysie, McCain comes to Alliance from the fort every now and then to visit some young lady with whom he is acquainted. Apparently—soldiers don't draw very heavy salaries, anyhow—he ran short of cash on a trip here a couple of weeks ago, for he cashed a check for \$15 at the National store. The check came back from the bank.

On March 6, McCain cashed a second check, this time for \$8, at Holsten's. The second check likewise came back. On the latter date, Manager Speer of the National, who had by this time learned that the check was without value, saw him on the street, recognized him and took him to task. The young man pulled a long sob-story, wept more or less freely, and while dabbing at his tears with his coat-sleeve, acknowledged that he had done wrong. He also promised to make restitution in the event he were not hailed into court and his crime made public. The tears and promises convinced Mr. Speer, who released the hold on his coat collar.

Shortly afterward, it seems, it was discovered that the soldier's repentant mood had lasted for only a few hours, and that he had repeated the little stunt. As a result, a complaint was made to the county attorney, and a warrant will be issued today and an effort made to locate McCain.

Fire Sunday Eve Burns Wires and Puts Out Lights

The fire department was called out Sunday evening about 7:30 to put out a fire at a barn belonging to Mrs. Young, 608 Box Butte. The fire is believed to have been started from hot ashes, and spread so quickly that it was impossible to save the building. The barn was full of straw and hay and became entirely ablaze before the fire fighters arrived, making it impossible to do more than protect the neighboring houses. The light wires passing directly over the barn were burned and the resulting short circuits lighted the scenery for some distance. The high power wires made the problem of fighting the fire more difficult as it would have been extremely dangerous to have thrown any water on them. The wires eventually separated and the lights on the west side of Box Butte avenue were put out for about two hours. Some trouble was had with the fire truck, which refused to move after reaching the scene of the excitement. This made little difference, however, in the final result.

CITY IS READY FOR POSSIBLE COAL STRIKE

TWO MONTHS' SUPPLY BEING PUT IN STORAGE

After April 1, City Will Not Be Bound by Old Contract, and Will Buy in the Open Market

In the "City Manager's Corner" for today, N. A. Kemmish discusses the coal situation. The city has been buying under an old contract, which has resulted in paying out some \$175 more a month over prices in the open market. April 1, this contract expires, and the city is now running a series of tests to determine the most economical fuel for the municipal water and light plant. Crude oil, it appears, will be too expensive.

Mr. Kemmish says: "Two years ago coal for our light plant was difficult to get. The mine operators had much their own way and made contracts for two years, which contracts will expire April 1, 1922. These contracts contained clauses protecting the mine operators against strikes, any wage increases of the miners, etc. We had such a contract and have endeavored to break it or modify it, but were not able to do so. Our legal advisor rendered an opinion stating that the contract was perfectly good and should be lived up to. It has caused us to pay \$175 per month more for our coal for some time than we could have purchased it from the same company.

"We are surely glad indeed to be out from under this contract April 1. After that date we will buy our coal on the open market wherever we can do the best. We began yesterday morning on a series of tests which will take us the rest of the month. We are testing the coal from a number of different mines. We will determine from these tests the relative values of these coals and determine the most economical coal for us to buy for our purpose.

"We are now placing in storage enough coal to run as about two months in case the miners should strike. We should like to burn oil in our boilers if it were possible to do so but it appears that while we are located near the Casper fields we cannot buy oil from this territory any cheaper than if we shipped it in from Oklahoma, so unfortunately this practically puts the oil at a figure whereby we cannot afford to use it.

(Continued on Page 5)

DISCUSS PLANS FOR IMPROVING TOURIST CAMP

CITY MANAGER N. A. KEMMISH OUTLINES THE PROGRAM.

Chamber of Commerce Members Interested in Providing Better Facilities for Auto Tourists.

The members of the chamber of commerce, at their meeting Monday noon took up the matter of a tourist camp near the city park. The city at present has a camp but it is proposed to improve the park greatly and make it a really desirable place for tourists to use. The park at present has no improvements and is merely a place where the tourist may go. City Manager N. A. Kemmish, who talked on the subject, said that it has been found that on an average each tourist who enters a town leaves \$5 behind, while Lloyd Thomas declared that it has been found that tourists spend on an average of \$10 per day in a town. Various tourist camps were then described and the advertising that these got for the town in which they were located was discussed.

Plans for a tourist camp for Alliance were then discussed. Mr. Kemmish suggested a camp with a building about twenty-five by thirty feet, in which there would be electric plates for cooking, water and facilities for laundering. In this building there would also be a long table with benches on each side on which meals could be served. Mr. Kemmish has already arranged for trees to be transplanted from the city park to the camp, as there is an overabundance in the park. A coal stove outside the building would also be provided, the C. B. & Q. having already agreed to furnish all the ties necessary for fuel. Lincoln Lowry of Lowry & Henry has offered to haul these ties free of charge. H. P. Coursey, Lincoln Lowry and N. A. Kemmish were then appointed as a committee to go into the matter and outline some definite plan.

Mr. Bracken of Gering, formerly of the Newberry Hardware company of this city, displayed some signs which are to be fastened to the radiator of an automobile, designating the town the car is from. These signs are made of cast bronze and the practically indestructible. The plan was to handle these through the chamber of commerce, thus replenishing the bank account of the organization.